

Accurate Information About Deming And the Mimbres Valley Country

Mayor of Deming Has an Article Prepared by Engineer covering the Salient Points.

A short time ago Mayor Corbett received a request from L. M. Allen, passenger traffic manager of the Rock Island lines, for accurate information regarding irrigation possibilities in the Mimbres valley, as Ford, Bacon & Davis, a prominent firm of engineers in New York city, were desirous of obtaining such information.

Being desirous of giving reliable and accurate information, Mayor Corbett arranged with R. H. Case, a civil engineer whose ability and judgment would be taken at par or above by any person wanting ground floor facts.

After speaking of the superior railroad advantages of Deming, the letter says:

The Mimbres valley is a basin plain, or pocket plain, a geologic type which is found frequently in the southwest. It has no drainage outlet. All the water that falls upon its water shed is retained in the subterranean strata of the valley. The Mimbres river proper has a watershed of about 1,500 square miles. It is a perennial stream to where it leaves its narrow mountain valley, and enters the broad Mimbres valley, the area of which is some 250,000 acres.

The Mimbres mountain valley some 25 miles northwest of Deming, the water sinks, finding its way into the underground water system of the alluvial and colluvial deposit which fills the valley proper.

The Underground Lake. During the dry season, from June to August, the dry channel carries the flood waters escaping the "sink," and also the flood waters from the Mimbres river, a distance of about 25 miles southeast from its point of exit, distributing these flood waters also into the underground strata.

No lake exists at the "end" of this dry waterbed and what water is not there by evaporation and absorption along its banks finds its way also into the underground system.

The river as its peak has been raised through a series of years and some 250,000 acre feet of water pour into the "sink" at this point annually. In addition to this, the Mimbres river, 250,000 acre feet are added from that part of the catchment area known as the El Burro mountains watershed.

The valley fill consists of, first, soil from 5 to 10 feet deep, then alternate layers of clay and gravel from 10 to 100 feet, then gravel strata varying in thickness from 5 to 10 feet and from 2 to 10 strata occurring within that depth.

The water plane, or depth from the surface, varies from 10 to 150 feet, there being an area of probably 150,000 acres on which the pumping lift for wells of from 10 to 150 feet will range from 20 to 25 feet.

Big Area Still Open. Of this 150,000 acres probably not more than 4,000 acres are under cultivation now. That area will probably be doubled in a few years, and it is unlikely that 150,000 acres will have been reclaimed by the close of 1912.

The agricultural history of this valley began in 1890, when the first irrigating well and pumping plant were installed. Prior to that year it was strictly a cattle country, and its thousands of acres of grass and mesquite land afforded range for numerous cattle, Deming at one time being one of the principal shipping points for cattle in the southwest.

The advent of the farmer was hardly appreciated. Considerable doubt existed as to the success of agriculture, but land was being rapidly taken up. In 1902 a California man, who for several years had been manager of the Cuddey ranch in South Los Angeles, visited this valley, saw the one pumping plant then in operation, delivering 1,000 gallons per minute, and immediately realized the possibilities.

This gentleman, who had had some 13 years' experience in pumping water for irrigation in California, installed a plant of 1,500 gallons and the commercial possibility of agriculture was definitely determined.

Following his example, others tried the so-called experiment and made good, the result being that today probably 250,000 acres of the available land here have been taken up, and there are in operation some 150 pumping plants irrigating approximately 400,000 acres of what was considered three years ago land fit for grazing only.

Land of Value. The agricultural value of this valley land having been determined, land values have risen rapidly in the past three years. In the Rio Grande valley, 50 miles east, and the Gila valley, 20 miles west of it, land values without water rights range from \$50 to \$150 per acre. Water rights under these projects will cost approximately \$70

per acre. Land in the Mimbres valley having the same agricultural value is selling from \$7 to \$15 per acre for re-landings and from \$25 to \$70 per acre for patented land. Water rights under pumping for irrigation, experience in the valley has shown to cost not to exceed \$30 per acre, and in many instances less.

The advantages of pumping where each individual owns his own pumping plant over the ordinary gravity system have been thoroughly demonstrated in California, where several hundred thousand acres of land are watered entirely with pumps.

Not more than 10 percent of the available 150,000 acres of irrigable land is patented, the balance being held under the homestead or the desert claim act. This land has been located within the last three years, and homestead and desert proofs are being made by actual settlers, but thousands of acres are on the market at the prices above stated, many people being willing to part with their right for a consideration of \$7 to \$15 per acre. The 150,000 acres of available agricultural land has been pretty well determined from wells that have been drilled within this territory. It is not unlikely that future developments will add 50,000 or perhaps more to the commercial area, or what we assume now to be not over an 85-cent lift.

The Pumping Lift. While there are many districts in California in which water is pumped at a depth of 125 feet for ordinary farm crops, the generally accepted belief here is that 85 feet is the limit of commercial pumping. It will probably be demonstrated in the future that this lift can be increased to 100 feet, for the general conditions in this valley compare favorably with conditions in California.

The soils of the Mimbres valley are of the typical desert type, producing when water is available for irrigation, alfalfa, Mexican beans, forage crops of all kinds, melons, onions, tomatoes, and other vegetables and small fruits, together with orchard fruits, including peaches, apples, plums, in fact everything except citrus varieties.

The climate is semi-arid, the rainfall in the valley proper averaging about eight inches per year. The maximum temperature is about 100, the minimum temperature is about 10. The first frost occurs about the 10th of October, the growing season is long, and vegetable growth is rapid. The nights are cool and, with all the climate is as nearly ideal as can be found.

Three Railroads. Three railroads afford transportation facilities, insuring a market for everything raised. Some of the largest copper mines in the United States are within 50 miles of Deming, this being their natural supply point.

There is a general uniformity in the irrigation pumping plants, the type having been taken from the California field. Wells are drilled with boring machines from 150 to 200 feet deep, casing installed in these holes having a perforated area matching the gravel strata which furnish the water. Pits are dug large enough to install pumps of the vertical centrifugal type, and gasoline engines furnish the required power.

Deming has an electric power plant, and several miles of transmission line have been constructed with the intention of determining the commercial possibility of electric power in pumping water. Some 10 plants have been installed close to Deming, and vertical motors, directly connected to the pump shafts, are used to raise the water. Electric power sells for three cents per K. W. hour. Power developed by gasoline engines costs considerably less than this, and it appears as far that gasoline engines give more satisfactory results.

Cost of Pumps. The cost of the complete installation varies somewhat according to the lift and quantity of water desired. Plants that are irrigating from 100 to 150 acres and with ultimate capacity probably of 400 acres cost from \$250 to \$350—25 or 30 horse power engine costing from \$150 to \$200, the best type of pump from \$50 to \$80, a well 150 to 200 feet, and the casing from \$200 to \$300.

Plants in the valley irrigating from 40 to 400 acres and with capacity from \$200 to \$350. It is probable that the future development of this valley will be in 40 acre tracts, just now while land is cheap, investors who have sufficient money install the larger plants. However there are many more smaller planters costing from \$100 to \$150 and irrigating small tracts of land.

There are several questions which will naturally present themselves to the investor. First, the character and the

supply of water. Analysis of the water here shows from 30 to 35 parts of total solids in 100,000 parts of water. It is free from alkali, gypsum or lime salts. Its temporary hardness is about 12; its permanent hardness is about 8. The purest water in the southwest. That it exists in an inexhaustible quantity is demonstrated.

Where the Water Goes. It is safe to say that 400,000 acre feet of water sink into the underground system annually. This would be about least three acre feet per acre for 125,000 acres, granting that all of this amount of land were under actual cultivation. Other questions that arise are: Will the soil produce? That has been demonstrated beyond question. Next, is there a market for the products raised? Alfalfa, Mexican beans, forage crops, potatoes, onions and fruits are "legal tender." Again, is there sufficient margin of profit to the farmer after the expense of watering his land is paid?

Alfalfa yields five cuttings per season, a ton and a half per cutting. The price ranges from \$12 to \$17 per ton, giving an average gross yield of \$30 per acre. The watering cost for this crop ranges from \$12 to \$15 per acre per year.

Mexican beans yield from 1,000 to 1,500 pounds per acre. The price varies from 4 to 6 cents per pound—a fair average gross yield being \$70 per acre. The watering cost of this crop varies from \$3.75 to \$5.50 per acre.

Onions yield as high as 30,000 pounds per acre. The price ranges from 12 to 15 cents per pound. The watering cost of this crop varies from \$5 to \$7 per acre.

Potatoes yield as high as 15,000 pounds per acre. The price ranges from 15 to 20 cents per pound, depending on the season. The cost of watering this crop varies from \$5 to \$7 per acre.

The Profit. There is no question as to the margin of profit above the watering cost. The labor item in this community is about the same as in some of our irrigating valleys in the southwest.

The possibilities here are shown in the following: Alfalfa, 100 pounds per acre at \$10 per ton, \$100 per acre; improvement, stock, tools, etc., \$20; leveling and preparing for crop, \$10; total, \$130 per acre—the ultimate cost being not far from \$100 per acre for a completely irrigated, improved water right, alfalfa profits alone adding \$30 per acre.

The possibilities of land in this valley are easily calculated. This is the opportunity the Mimbres valley offers to homesteaders.

Each 40 or 80 acre requires a well, casing and pump, a pump and power, either gasoline or crude oil engine or electricity. A central power plant is a feasible proposition if electricity can be produced to the valley. The Mimbres valley offers to industrial enterprises a brief, impersonal and a description of irrigating conditions and opportunities existing in the Mimbres valley.

I have been interested in mining, and the commercial enterprises in this country for the past 20 years. The real prosperity of the valley is but just commenced, and I unhesitatingly recommend it to your firm for your personal investment.

I trust you will feel free to call upon me for any specific information you may desire, and it will please me greatly to be able to comply with any request you may desire to make. Very respectfully yours, John Corbett, Mayor.

R. H. Case, Civil Engineer.

WASHO IN OCCURS NEAR LAS CRUCES

(Continued from page 1, Section 2)

make a desert land entry and return to the former state with no intention of making his home in the state where his desert land entry is located, is not recognized by the department, and a charge of fraud can be made in a contest against such entrymen where they have falsely testified to a residence in the state where the land is located.

This rule is not observed, however, in cases where the claimant makes entry in good faith, fully intending to make a home in the state where the desert land is located, and later on does make his home where the land is. Nor will it operate to defeat the right of an actual bona fide resident of a state who makes desert land entry in the state where his residence is located and later removes out of the state, unless it can be shown that he contemplated making his home outside the state at the time he made the entry.

Haystack Burns. A small fire, which did not result in much damage, which was believed at first to be the home of Colonel Hagan on Alameda drive, proved to be a haystack on an adjoining ground. Invitations are out for the fancy dress ball to be given by the local order of Elks at the armory on the night of February 15. Prizes will be given for handsome costumes, and good music will be furnished.

Washout on Santa Fe. The washout on the Santa Fe might have proved disastrous had it happened when the morning train from El Paso was due to pass the cause of the washout was the water from one of the main aqueducts, which overflowed the track and washed out about 250 yards of track, which had to be repaired before any more trains could pass. This occurred shortly after the night train from El Paso to El Paso. The train coming up from El Paso was held at Las Cruces, where the passengers who had not had opportunity to make a visit to the metropolis of the Mesilla valley took a walk into the city. The washout occurred about one and a half miles north of the Las Cruces station. The track was repaired and service was resumed.

Mrs. Helen M. Miller has gone to the Colorado Springs, where she is the wife of a doctor. Mrs. Miller's health has not been good of late and it is hoped the change will be beneficial.

Miss Neneada Ascarete entertained at cards, the game being 500. The evening was in honor of Miss Carr of Kansas City, who is the house guest of Miss Josephine Armijo. Many friends were present and a supper was served. The prize winners being Mrs. Fabian Garcia, Frances Garcia and Miss W. C. Matthews of Denver, Colo., is a new arrival in the valley.

G. C. Backus of Albuquerque was in the Mesilla matches. John McNary of Berino spent the day in the city seat.

Old Citizen Dies Suddenly. The funeral of Jose Bargas, one of the old-time residents of Las Cruces, was brought to town from the Van Patten camp at Dripping Springs, where he died suddenly during the night. Mr. Bargas was about 55 years of age and had lived in the vicinity of Mesilla for the last forty years. He was in apparent good health the day before his death and after doing a day's work he went up a steep mountain to turn out his team, returning to the camp he slipped and fell, but regained his feet and walked to the camp without having to call for assistance.

After a hearty supper the injured man retired to his bed, apparently in excellent health. During the night he went out to the stable to feed the horses and on his way back he fell, and some wood to replenish the fire, and the other occupants of the room thought he had returned, but on going to the woodpile in the morning one of the men at the camp found the body, where he had dropped, dead apparently from heart failure.

The funeral was held in the Catholic church after the coroner had viewed the body and pronounced the death to be due to natural causes. Edward Montera, who was injured Saturday last, and who was removed to the hotel for care, has so far recovered as to be able to return to the "board" dormitory at the college at Mesilla park, where he makes his home, being a student at the college.

H. S. Beckard of Salt Lake, Utah, is a newcomer in the valley, looking over the field.

R. B. Powell of Columbus, N. M., accompanied by D. P. Brighton, same place, were in the city on business before the local land office.

W. W. Hall of Sioux City, Iowa, is in the city on a visit to his daughter, Mrs. E. C. Wade, Jr. Mr. Hall is making his first visit to New Mexico.

Thomas Branigan, who was believed recovering, is reported to have had a relapse.

Mrs. J. E. Robinson has returned from a visit with relatives in El Paso. She is the wife of a prominent citizen of the city, and was on a trip to the valley, inspecting the work of the field survey party.

PIONEER DIES IN FT. SUMNER OFFICE. Capt. M. C. McIntyre Once Owned Gunnison, Colo.; Prominent Here.

Fort Sumner, N. M., Feb. 10.—Capt. M. C. McIntyre was stricken with paralysis and died in his office in Fort Sumner, N. M., at 10:30 a. m. today. He was 65 years of age, and had been in the service of the army for many years, making the trip from Cincinnati to New Orleans. In the early 80s he came west and was a prominent figure in the real estate business in the Deming, N. M., country more than 20 years ago. At one time he owned practically the entire town of Gunnison, Colo., operating the waterworks, and other large enterprises. He was identified with many of the out of the southwest and was a heavy operator in the oil fields of Oklahoma and Texas. He was an Odd Fellow and an active worker in the Union church here. Capt. McIntyre had lived in Fort Sumner for several years and was very popular.

PARSONS NOTES. Parsons, N. M., Feb. 10.—H. Conshrub of Bunko was here on business. C. A. Stevens, ex-sheriff of Lincoln county, was in this vicinity this week on business.

T. J. Griffin has returned from Nogal, N. M. D. Elliot has returned from Carrizozo, where he had gone on a visit to his family.

James Robinson, who has been very ill, is improving.

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GERMAN ATHLETES TO ENTER MARATHON

(Continued from page 1, Section 2)

holm from Berlin is low. A special train will carry the expected crowd of German supporters.

To Hold Trials. Trials to pick the German competitors will be held at Leipzig during the Whitehouse holidays, May 24 and 25. To spare the Marathon runners the strain of a full Marathon course so close to the big race, trials for this event will be held about May 1 over a distance of only 25 kilometers, about 15 1/2 miles. Germany has at least three men: Ran, a sprinter; Braun, a half miler, and Poshman, a pole vaulter, who have shown close to world's championship form, and a well balanced lot of men for practically all the events in the Olympic program. The material for the team is far better than its training methods. German ideas on this subject being of the latest nature. The limitations of the committee's knowledge on this subject is shown by a circular of instruction issued to candidates a short time ago recommending solely "light, daily exercise" and a daily bath. In Berlin and some other large cities there are now a number of clubs with athletic instructors, but most of the men are self-trained and college and school trained athletes, which contribute to the success of the American teams, are entirely lacking.

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